

# Welcome to our Toddler Program

## What will my child's first day be like?

Because your child is about to experience a brand new environment, his/her day may hold a few surprises. Your child's nap and meal times may be different from his/her regular child care setting. Separation anxiety is very common at this age and your child may take time to warm up to their new classroom and friends. Your child's teachers are sensitive to this and will do everything they can to comfort your child. Allowing time at drop off to support your child in this transition will help set him/her up for a successful day.

Toddlers are exploding in their power to communicate and move purposely, and to assert their independence and individuality. Toddlers are transitioning from the total dependence of babyhood to the more independent mobile world of preschool. We celebrate this unique age and work to foster curiosity and develop important self-help skills that will pave the way for future success in upcoming stages of development. Our environment is well planned, allowing for child choice and self-directed play as well as brief circle times and teacher guided activities for the whole group.

## Here are a few activities that we will integrate into your child's day:

- ▶ Story time, individual and group
- ▶ Circle time for stories, songs, finger plays, and games
- ▶ Sensory, Art, and Science exploration through teacher-guided, age-appropriate projects
- ▶ Family-style lunch and snacks (morning and afternoon)
- ▶ Gross motor play, both inside and out
- ▶ Opportunities to practice fine motor development
- ▶ Practicing emerging social skills with peers and teachers

## What should you bring?

- ▶ Diapers and Wipes (enough to change your child every two hours, plus a few extra)
- ▶ Comfort or nap items (blanket, pacifier, stuffed animal, etc.)
- ▶ Peanut/Nut-free cold lunch with a serving of fruit and vegetables (we provide milk & water)
- ▶ Anything else you think will help your child have the best day possible
- ▶ Appropriate clothing for outside play for all seasons

**We are excited to meet you and your child! Please feel free to visit or call the center at any time and ask to speak with your child's caregiver.**

